REGULAR SESSION

February 13, 2025

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday , February 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Christopher Grau, Mayor & President of Council presiding.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and roll call.

Members of Council present: Andrew Blackley, Deborah Chuha, Christopher Grau, David Lelko, Kyle Martin, Heather Means, Daniel Meleski.

Members of Council absent: none.

Others Present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Finance Director Mark Iacofano, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki, Police Chief Scott Niehus, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Community Development Administrator Steve Yaney, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Allison Wilson, Terry Delbo, Leroy Dowling, Mike Butt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 Regular Session as presented.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO._4-25

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR TERRY DELBO was read for the first time in its entirety.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 4-25 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 4-25.

Members of Members of Council and staff reflected on Mr. Delbo’s service to the City and wished him well in his retirement.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported on the hiring of Curtis Tetlow as a m aintenance worker in the Division of Streets, Cemeteries and Parks.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the City has been selected to participate in a free program through the Cuyahoga County Public Safety and Justice Services to migrate the City’s website to a .gov domain, which is meant to provide more security and confidence in government websites.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the Mayor and staff met with Representative Sarah Arthur-Fowler and a staff member from Congressman Joyce’s office to discuss grant opportunities, particularly for a second clearwell and the water tower rehabilitation project.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of public works projects.

Public Service Director Paul Hornyak reported on the flooding of the Geauga Theater caused by a frozen heat exchanger line. He explained that staff continues to work with Paul Davis Restoration and insurance companies to evaluate the necessary repairs.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met in Regular Session and approved a request by Frontier Land Group for document approval for Maple Trace PRD Phase 2B. Council will be asked to consider approval as well later in the meeting.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission heard a request from Frontier Land Group who requested an amendment to the Preliminary Plan approval to replace the proposed playground in the common area with 20’ x 20’ pavilion. Planning Commission tabled the item until the developer obtains a consensus from the current property owners.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission also approved a variance to allow the installation of an overheard electric service line to serve the new Cider Mill Townhomes development.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Safety Committee

Mr. Blackley reported that the Committee met and discussed crosswalk safety with representatives from the Chardon Local School District and Park Elementary School, who reviewed their education of parents and students about crosswalk safety. Crosswalk flags were also discussed and the committee recommended that they not be permitted since they are not approved by the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Mr. Blackley reported that the Committee also discussed the updating of the Emergency Operations Plan.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Chuha reported that the Committee met and reviewed a draft of the 2025 budget.

Mr. Iacofano stated that a full presentation of the budget for all of Council will be held in March.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda – none.

General Public – none.

OLD BUSINESS – none.

NEW BUSINESS
A special session of Council was set for March 6, 2025 at 6:30 PM to discuss the 2025 budget.

Regarding an Announcement of Decision for the MAPLE TRACE PRD

PHASE 2B; SUBDIVISION PLAT OF RECORD AND DEDICATION OF SUBDIVISION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Chojnacki stated that the announcement of decision (AOD) is the first step for Council to accept the public improvements which have been inspected by staff and approved by Planning Commission. A motion by Council authorizing the AOD and passage of legislation is needed to accept the public improvements.

Mayor Grau moved and Ms. Means seconded to approve the Announcement of Decision for the MAPLE TRACE PRD PHASE 2B; SUBDIVISION PLAT OF RECORD AND DEDICATION OF SUBDIVISION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 3302

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS DEDICATED BY FLG-CHARDON, LLC FOR PUBLIC USE, AUTHORIZING THE RECORDING OF A DEDICATION PLAT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3302 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3302.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the legislation adopts the announcement of decision which approves the plat for Phase 2B of the Maple Trace PRD and authorizes the dedication of public improvements.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3303

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 521.17 AND 945.12 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO REGULATE CAMPING ON CITY PROPERTY, CITY BUILDINGS, STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE CITY OF CHARDON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Ms. Means seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3303 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3303.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the legislation was created after discussion with City staff and the Legislative Committee on how to best address camping in the City. The legislation clarifies what it means to camp in the City and the consequences of camping in violation of the ordinance. The legislation also clarifies and amends the section of the code to make it clear that camping is prohibited in every City park and any public space and right-of-way and is subject to prosecution.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

<u>RESOLUTION NO._5-25</u>
A FINAL RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY'S CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RESURFACING OF WATER STREET (US 6), MAIN STREET (US 6DA) AND SOUTH STREET/CENTER STREET (SR 44) (PID NO. 110950) was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 5-25 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 5-25.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the Resolution is the next step in finalizing the agreement between the City and ODOT for the State Route Repaving Project. The agreement makes it clear that the City will assume the terms and conditions of the project, most notably, the City agrees to share in the cost estimated at $1,849,160.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

<u>RESOLUTION NO._6-25</u>
A RESOLUTION ADVANCING FUNDS IN THE CITY OF CHARDON TREASURY FOR 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 6-25 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Martin seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 6-25.

Mr. Iacofano stated that the Resolution advances funds for the State Route Repaving Project which are due February 14th.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. Chuha reported that expenditures were in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. for conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and invite Ben Chojnacki, Randy Sharpe, Steve Yaney, Doug Courtney and Amy Day into the session. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

Meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Grau reported that it came to the attention of the City, that Chardon School District student Charlotte Jons is a state champion for speech and debate and asked Council to consider adding her name to the City's individual state championship sign. He noted that he has discussed the school being more involved in recognizing academically gifted students with the superintendent.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means seconded to add Charlotte Jons on the individual state championship sign as a speech and debate champion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the Chardon Rotary Club is looking for a project that could benefit from the organization's funds. He suggested that a pocket park at Cherry and Water Streets may be a project they could collaborate on with the City. He asked Council if they were interested in pursuing a project with Rotary instead of using the funds to begin the process of turning Short Court Street into greenspace.

Ms. Means reviewed some of the visions and ideas that were discussed at the meeting between representatives from Rotary and the City for a low-maintenance area that blends into the surroundings, as a way for the City to partner with local non-profits.

Mr. Sharpe stated that he is looking for direction to work with the non-profits and look for grant opportunities and to develop an RFQ for the project.

Mr. Blackley spoke in support of a script Chardon sign and other beautification efforts in the pocket park, but noted that without a parking lot, the area will not be ideal for gatherings. He added that his initial reaction though is that the Short Court project will have far greater public use though than the pocket park.

Mrs. Chuha stated that she does not want to lose parking on Short Court.

Ms. Means noted that there is quite a bit of pedestrian traffic in the pocket park area. She suggested that the ideas be at least investigated as well as what funding opportunities exist from the non-profit groups.

Mr. Meleski stated that the pocket park is a unique space with challenges, but also opportunities.

Mayor Grau stated that he is in favor of looking at the possibilities for the park.

No other objections were made to the City Manager investigating possibilities for the pocket park and funding opportunities.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lelko moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Attest:

CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council